

great Kansan, Andrew J. McCurry, who passed away on February 12 at his home in Burrton, Kansas, surrounded by his loving family.

Andy was born in 1950 in Hutchinson, Kansas. After studying animal science and industry at Kansas State University, he and his wife, Mary, started their registered Angus operation Marands Angus, which later became McCurry Angus Ranch.

As third- and fourth-generation Angus breeders, Andy and his family built a legacy all their own while carrying on the traditions of their ancestors.

Andy spent a lifetime pounding posts by hand, making a suitable place for hosting cattle sales, chuckwagon cookouts, livestock judging teams, and visitors from across the U.S. Ultimately, he built a place to raise both his family and world-class Angus cattle by the sweat of his brow.

Andy's gift was the ability to meet people from all walks of life and spend time getting to know them, and his network of friends was nationwide.

Later in life, Andy pursued another career as a pharmacist. He attended the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, graduated in 1990, after which he worked as a pharmacist in the Hutchinson, Kansas, area for 30 years, retiring on his 70th birthday in 2020.

Because of his career-change experience, Andy was able to come alongside young people and help them find direction in their lives. He encouraged so many.

To Andy's wife, Mary; his son, John; his daughter, Emily; and all his grandchildren, you have my prayers as you gather together to remember Andy's loving impact.

Andy's legacy lives on in so many ways, especially in the cattle his family still produces. I know the first bull sale without Andy will be a tough one, but what a way to honor his legacy by continuing on the tradition he loved so much.

I will be praying for you tomorrow during the sale that your family would have peace, Andy would be honored, and that the bulls would set new records.

REDUCING VETERAN SUICIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, last month President Biden announced a vision to advance progress on his Unity Agenda in the year ahead. I am encouraged by the agenda's focus on reducing veteran suicide, which has been one of my highest priorities since coming to Congress. I am encouraged by the specific focus on expanding outreach to justice-involved veterans, who may be at even greater risk for suicide.

In recent years, we have seen some signs of progress on this issue. From 2018 to 2020, age- and sex-adjusted vet-

eran suicide rates fell by nearly 10 percent.

However, with nearly 17 veterans still dying by suicide every day—a rate that is more than 50 percent higher than suicides among nonveteran adults—we know that we have much more work to do to save lives.

Part of the administration's agenda is an important focus on increasing lethal means safety, which is an intentional, voluntary practice to reduce suicide risk by limiting access by those in crisis to lethal means, like medication, firearms, and sharp instruments that can be used to inflict self-directed violence.

The data on lethal means safety are clear. People who reduce their access to lethal means during times of heightened risk are reducing their risk of dying by suicide.

Given the robust evidence on the effectiveness of lethal means safety in preventing suicide, the Trump administration implemented a requirement for every clinician at the Veterans Health Administration to complete a lethal means safety training so that they would be prepared to have conversations with the veterans they care for about this lifesaving practice.

Thanks to this requirement, nearly 100 percent of Veterans Health Administration clinicians have completed the Department's lethal means safety training. However, the training remains optional for all other staff, including at the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, vet centers, and vocational rehabilitation facilities.

This lack of a mandate has consequences. Without a requirement to do so, a mere fraction of 1 percent of VA's nonclinical employees have completed the Department's lethal means safety training. What this means is that every day we have veterans who could be in crisis interacting with VA employees who might be able to identify risk factors and have lifesaving conversations, but these VA staff are not trained to do so, and we could be losing our veterans because of it.

That is unacceptable, and that is why I introduced the Lethal Means Safety Training Act, which would make the Department's evidence-based training a requirement for all VA staff who regularly interact with veterans in their work, as well as community providers and family caregivers.

I will continue my work to get this passed in Congress, but no legislation is needed to expand VA's existing training requirement to other VA employees. Unfortunately, the administration's announcement last month did not include any plans for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use his existing authority to expand the Department's lethal means safety training requirement.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs already has the authority to take this lifesaving action today, and I once again call on him to do so immediately.

Every day that VA does not take this simple step is another day that we are leaving valuable tools in our toolbox unused. It is another day that we will lose nearly 17 veterans to suicide.

Not every single death can be prevented with an expanded lethal means safety training requirement, but at no cost to the Department and with no need for additional legislation, there is no reason to further delay on implementing this policy.

The Secretary has an opportunity to help save the lives of our veterans with the stroke of his pen, and I urge him to do so immediately, by expanding the Department's lethal means safety training requirement to all staff who regularly interact with veterans in their work. This step would build on the meaningful actions the Secretary has already taken and other steps announced by the President last month.

SECRETARY BUTTIGIEG SHOULD RESIGN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to demand accountability. Pete Buttigieg has shown he is unfit to lead the Department of Transportation and must resign immediately.

From his first day in office, he has been more focused on diversity training and identity politics than on building and maintaining America's transportation system. He has abandoned his Department's mission of improving safety, technology, and efficiency of our infrastructure in favor of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Case in point: The horrific train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. Buttigieg took 10 days to acknowledge this incident and 3 weeks to show up and support the community.

As Ohioans fled their homes and worried about their health, the Secretary of Transportation was on TV whining about too many White people in construction industries. His policies have continuously put the wokes before the folks, and we are again seeing the consequences.

After seeing another Norfolk Southern train derail this weekend, I was reminded of the fact that the company wrote to shareholders stating that it is focused on DEI. This administration's focus on DEI is forcing private companies to rethink their goals, and one has to wonder, if Norfolk Southern's DEI policies are directing resources away from the important things, like greasing wheel bearings.

This insanity must stop. Speaking of insanity, it looks like Secretary Buttigieg is spending a lot of taxpayer money flying on private jets, but he doesn't want the American people to know where he is going or why.

I don't know about you, but I seem to recall a recent Health and Human